

Francis Fauquier to George Washington, October 7, 1758, fragment missing, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE HON, GOVERNOR FAUQUIER.

W.S BURGH Oct. 7th. [mutilated]

SR./

I read your Dispatches containing the [mutilated] able Accts. of the Check we received before Fort du Quesne as forwarded by Lieutt. Smith from Fort Loudoun on [mutilated] 2d. instant, and laid them immediately before the House who are still debating, one Day resolving on one Sch [mutilated] the next, on another in Relation to Military affairs [mutilated] that nothing is yet determined upon.

Our Loss is great if we consider the brave Off [mutilated] men who fell, but if we think only of numbers [mutilated] inconsiderable, and can be of no great Consequ [mutilated] for by the Behaviour of your Men they shew they [mutilated] not to be soon daunted: They have acted in the Man [mutilated] that was expected from them, and in wch. I don't doubt they will continue to act, and so merit, and meet the applause of their Country.¹

I have ordered the Blankets up to Winchester to be delivered as soon as possible that you may repay the General those he furnish'd you with. And have sent up the blank Commissions you desired, and dont doubt but you will fill them up according to merit.

Library of Congress

The same Messenger who brot. yours brought also an acct. of the blowing up a Magazine at Fort Cumberland wch. surely was owing to Neglect somewhere; for I should think it highly improper that every Officer should have free Admission into a Magazine, and suppose it is some particular Officers Duty, whether Store keeper or other [mutilated] to go in; and fetch what is wanted from Magazines [mutilated] this is the Case at present I think Inquiry ought to [mutilated] made where the Neglect lay, if it is not a Rule, I think [mutilated] ht to be made one.²

[mutilated] ry to give you any additional Trouble, but must [mutilated] you will give orders, that whoever is sent down to [mutilated] wth. Expresses may be furnish'd with Money in advance to proceed on his Journey, for want of which Davis a Soldier in your Regiment (I think) who brought the Dispatch to me, came almost dead having lain three nights in the Woods Almost without Sustenance. He having no Money, no House would receive him, or supply him wth. common necessaries of Life. This can [mutilated] no hardship on any Body as they are sure to have it allow'd and repaid.

I most sincerely wish you better and speedy Success, being

wth. great Esteem Yr. very Hum Servt FRAN: FAUQUIER

[mutilated] Davis applyed to Lieut. Smith

[mutilated] money and was refused, at least his Desire was without Effect.

1 In the disastrous affair of September 14, in which Major Grant was defeated, the Virginians under Captain Bullitt behaved with great fortitude. Colonel Bouquet, writing to General Amherst, September 17, says, "At last our men yielded, and there remained only a scene of confusion, notwithstanding all the efforts of Major Grant to rally them. They would have been cut to pieces probably had not Captain Bullet of the Virginians, with 100 men, sustained the combat with all their power, until, having lost two-thirds of his men, he was driven to the shore of the river, where he found the poor Major. He urged him to retire, but he said he would not quit the field of battle as long as there was a man who would fight. My heart is broke (said he) I shall never outlive this day."

2 Washington replied to this that "Govt. Sharpe, in person, commanded a Garrison of Militia (from his Province) at Fort Cumberland, when the Magazine was blown up; and had I believe his Store-keeper included in the blast."